

**Harvard Parks and Rec
Meeting Notes – 07/01/2013
Hapgood Library
7:30 pm**

Commission Members: John Lee, BJ Pessia, Joe Schmidt, Pat Nelson, Anne McWaters,
Alexandra Luck
Guests: over 60 guests

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Minutes from 6/3 approved, Minutes from 6/18 approved

Meeting rules of procedure – John reviewed procedures – all items to be discussed at the meeting need to be on the agenda. If something comes up in the meantime, we can discuss it.
Dealing with the public – we are elected by the public and must be cordial.

Budget update and process – spending proposals need to be brought to the commission and we will agree on a not-to-exceed limit, so that we all know what is encumbered and can keep better track of the budget.

FinCom Fund transfer – Applied to FinCom for \$2000 and \$4500 for a boat.
P&R purchased a motor for the boat. That will be transferred from town available funds. The FinCom will vote on July 10 regarding the purchase. We will wait to see if we get approval.

Shade Structure – Anne met with Gordon shade structure person today at the park.
Installation of shade structure will begin in about 3 weeks.

Portables – We are going to go with Ratta – all port-a-potties will be removed in Nov and dropped again in March. Daves has been contacted and understands that we will no longer be using them.

Beach Programs update

-Internet is badly needed at the beach. \$99 one time installation fee and \$65 monthly fee.
John will talk to cable committee about including the beach in the town cable circle and reducing our fee.

Parking lot issue – Do we want to fund a study to look at whether we want more parking?

Other issues – not discussed

Boat Moorings and Canoe racks – not discussed

Harvard LongBoard Competition – skateboard competition in the center of town Aug 17 and 18. John has been trying to get in contact with Mike Girard about what they might need. They usually use the little common and sometimes the Common. They will be charged a user fee. Leo Blair stated that the group has to show proof of insurance to the Board of Selectman – they

have done so already. Anne was nominated to draft a document to be issued to all groups wanting to use our facilities.

Follow-up on Lion's Club Triathlon – about 350 participants. Things seemed to go well. John suggested that the Lions contact the police to see if there were any issues on their end. If they want to do it again next year, we would be in support. Joe is going to ask them to come to a meeting to discuss.

Bare Hill Rowing Program Discussion

Brad Glade: Harvard resident with a sophomore at Bromfield who has been on the rowing program for 3 years. Has been a great program for his daughter.

Matthew Chambers: UMass student who was a rower for Bromfield. Attributes much of who he is to rowing and does not want to see the size of it be restricted.

Jack Purdy: Longtime resident who wants to know if they are going to learn what the issues are or if all of the people are here. Is there a plan to get together with Bromfield, Parks and Rec, harbormaster, and BHRA?

Pat Nelson: The issue is governance. The original contract was drawn up and according to it, the Parks and Rec is responsible for things that we, as a Commission, have no business being a part of or being responsible. There are two varsity seasons: Fall and Spring. The Summer program is unique and needs to be discussed in February, not in July. Parks and Rec needs to sort out timing and governance.

Tom Gormley: Resident of Warren Ave – has had some issues come up with BHRA as a member of the Pond Committee and has been able to work them out. Strongly encourages P&R to try to work issues out.

Jenny Gormley: Enjoys the experienced rowers program.

Jim Ware: On the board of BHRA – stated that Jim O'Shea interviews all the coaches and he feels Bromfield is very involved in the club.

Kevin O'Connor: A rower at Bromfield. His coach wanted him to come and discuss the percentage of AB and Bromfield kids. He states that he thinks they need a 50/50 split for both schools.

No name given: There is a policy from BHRA that no Bromfield kids can be turned away. Wayland-Weston has about 120.

Diane Bishop: Her son has been doing the learn to row and she thinks the athletes on the crew team are the most respectful

Julie Dexter: Doesn't think the ratio is the issue, but rather that there is more support in town to get more Bromfield kids excited and more involved.

Steven Gordon: There were 30 kids in the program when his daughter rowed and that "didn't work" because they didn't have the money to make the team competitive.

Sandra Hobby: Asst director of recreation in Westford. They started their program in 2009 on Forge Pond. The public beach is in Westford and part is in Littleton. The young people love it, the masters (adults) love it and work together. They have had an issue with a dock as well and have placed a sign that says "For Crew Use Only". When the town recreation department brought crew to the Westford school, the school department didn't want to be a part of it, but they have since made it a varsity sport.

Alexandra Luck: Town Beach Director has had a number of complaints including the practice of capsizing in the swimming area, use of our town boat without our knowledge when our lifeguards may need it, the fact that the dock is a danger and a problem for our lifeguards to monitor.

Bob O'Shea: Harbormaster: Has put together carrying capacity study for the pond. His daughter has been in the program for 5 or 6 years. Has been focused on safety in the water. The number of boats and the dock are his issue.

The dock: the gap between the black dock and the pier is too large. The law is that you have to go to the state to put anything in the pond unless you have a local harbormaster. The town applies for a buoys for ropes and rafts and such. This year's permit did not include the black dock. Tom Cotton has been informed. Bob recommended an alternate location for the black dock. The new location could be right next to the swimming area.

The number of boats: The studies reflect that if uncontrolled, there would only be 5 speedboats allowed at the same time. Since ours is controlled (in a counterclockwise direction), about 9 boats would work. There are 48 speedboats on the pond this weekend at people's homes. A number of smaller boats. About 292 canoes/kayaks. On average in the summer, there are about 6 speedboats at a time. During the summer peak times, after 10am, we are above peak for number of boats. We need to disallow new rowers out during a time when there are so many speedboats as it is a safety concern.

Observations from his study:

1. The pond has excess capacity except in the summer motoring hours where it is over capacity.
2. Max capacity @ public access site needs to be managed in the Summer but not otherwise.
3. Counter-clockwise rotation needs to be monitored to use capacity (2) in summer.
4. Over capacity of canoes/kayaks is only a danger when combined with motor boating.

Peter Brooks: Does not think there should be number restrictions on a great pond.

John polled for issues: parking (most of the lot was taken up by the boats), and the floating dock -John proposed we pull together a group including each of the parties and draft a new agreement with BHRA. Recommendations for boating on the pond.

Joe is going to draft something to send to Terry DeWitt listing our current concerns. He will send it to each of us before it goes to Terry.

Draft agreement for use of beach -2 members from Park and Rec to work with BHRA: Pat Nelson and Joe Schmidt have volunteered. They will get in touch with Terry DeWitt about forming a group. They will involve Bromfield, Pond Committee, and Harbormaster.

Committee communication. See above.

Summer Program. According to BHRA, there is only a three week program left in Aug. Their website lists more than that.

Misc:

-Laura Andrews from the COA would like to be on our email list for agendas.

-BJ applied to get a permit to use the water main for the softball field. Has not heard anything back.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:10 pm